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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENCODING APPARATUS, ENCODING METHOD, DECODING APPARATUS, AND DECODING METHOD

(START INITIALIZE AND GENERATE HEADER **END** NOT COMPLETE MAXIMUBA ER OF FRAMES neen ' NOT FULL INPUT FRAME CALCULATE DIFFERENCE R SET AND STORE SECTION CALCULATE DIFFERENCE DIFFERENCE R<T R<Th SET AND STORE REPRESENTATIVE FRAME UPDATE END POINT VALUE COMPLETE S18 NOT COMPLETE UPDATE START AND END POINT VALUES S16 COMPLETE image PERFORM MOTION COMPENSATION WITH REPRESENTATIVE FRAME SELECT SECTION S17 ENCODE SLICE

(57) Abstract: ABSTRACT Frames are divided into a plurality of sections on the basis of input images of the frames (S8). One representative image that represents the image of each frame is set in each of the sections (S10). One representative image to be referred to is selected so as to encode an image of a frame of interest from the representative images set for respective sections, and the image of the frame of interest is encoded by motion compensation using the images of the frames in the section that includes the selected representative image (S13, S14, S15).

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